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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

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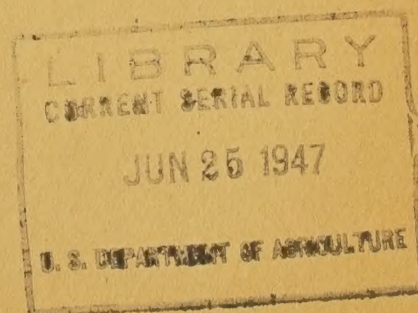
Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #17

Permanent Farm Labor Legislation--All of last week was devoted to Hearings on H. R. 3367 and S. 1334. The Committee on Agriculture of the House held open hearings Monday through Friday. The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry began on Tuesday and completed its Hearings on Thursday. The Congressional Records for June 16-20, Section D gives the names of those testifying for or against the bills. It is too early to hazard a guess relative to probable action by either Committee.

1947 Section 2 budgets. Revised budgets have been received from all States. The total funds requested by the States exceed slightly the money available for the year necessitating reductions in those States where the 1947 estimates exceed 1946 expenditures. Budget approval letters will be mailed within the next day or two.

Congresswoman Douglas of California introduced H. R. 3856 - Migratory Farm Labor Act of 1947 on June 16, 1947. The proposed Bill, referred to the Committee on Agriculture, would establish a special migratory labor program under the Secretary of Labor "to undertake, or assist in, among other things, (1) the collection, compilation, and dissemination of information relevant to migratory labor, labor-deficit areas, and housing and working conditions; (2) the recruiting, training, and placement of workers; (3) the transportation of, and the furnishing of housing, and health and medical care and burial services to, workers and their families; and (4) the construction, lease, repair, alteration, relocation, expansion, and operation of labor-supply centers, labor camps and homes, child-care centers, and other necessary facilities and services."

Dr. Vaughan attended a work simplification conference at Purdue University June 16-19. This meeting was sponsored by the work simplification committees of the American Farm Economic Association and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. There were about 20 persons present from the various States, representing men who have been associated with the research studies in work simplification.



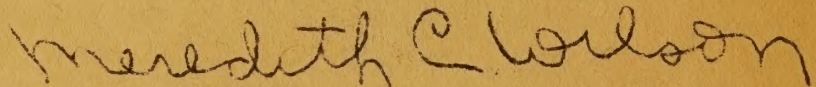


The purpose of the conference was to review the work now being done and outline new projects for further study. Also to lay the groundwork for the preparation of a manual on work simplification in agriculture. This manual would make available to all States the research, teaching and extension techniques used during the war period in connection with this type of work. Dr. Vaughan plans to take leave for the month of July to organize the manual and start preparation of materials to go into it. This work will be centered at Purdue University.

It is indeed gratifying to see how the States have moved in on the farm labor housing program this past winter and spring. Report after report tells of how individual farmers, groups of farmers, labor associations and other users of farm labor have made improvements in their housing accommodations. Apparently they can readily see that good housing pays dividends by assuring a good supply of workers, reducing the turnover of workers, improving the quality of work done, increasing the quantity of work accomplished, and in a more generally satisfactory labor supply. If you in your housing program have developed material that would be of value to other States we will be glad to circulate it for you as a supplement to the folder of Farm Labor Housing Plans sent the farm labor supervisors last February. Seventy copies would be needed.

Joint statement by Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor covering Section 2 (a) and Section 2 (b), public law 40, was prepared some time ago. Will advise as soon as signed copy is returned from Department of Labor.

Yours very truly,



Meredith C. Wilson  
Deputy Director of Extension  
Farm Labor Program

(Copy to State supervisors)